

84. (New) The safe of claim 81, wherein the second support surface comprises a shelf connected to the back wall of the housing.

85. (New) The safe of claim 81, wherein the second support surface comprises a shelf connected to the top wall of the housing.

86. (New) The safe of claim 20, wherein the aperture is located proximate the second support surface such that items inserted into the housing through the aperture for reception by the second support surface, essentially avert impacting a device that is maintained by the first support surface.

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#### Remarks

Before this amendment, Claims 1-15, 17-34, 36-49 and 51-55 were pending in the above-referenced application. Claim 2 was objected to and Claims 14, 15, 33, 34, 48 and 49 were objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claims 1-2, 4, 5, 14, 15, 19 and 53 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakeman (U.S. Patent No. 928,483). Further, Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman. Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Wege (U.S. Patent No. 1,054,325). Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Wege further in view of List (U.S. Patent No. 3,866,961). Claims 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 33, 36, 37, 38 and 54 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Israel (GB 2,066,869). Claims 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman in view of Israel further in view of Wege. Claims 30-32 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman, Israel and Wege in view of List. Claims 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49, 51, 52 and 55 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman and Wege in view of Israel. And, Claims 45-47 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakeman, Wege and Israel in view of List.

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for telephone interviews in which proposed

amendments to the Claim 1 were discussed to further distinguish the claimed invention over Wakeman, however agreement was not reached.

In this Reply, the claims have been amended to overcome the aforementioned objections. And, the claims have been amended to further clarify the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 40, 41, 47, 48, 49, 52 and 55 have been canceled, and new Claims 56-86 have been added instead. Marked-up version of the amendments is attached. The new claims further specify limitations of the present invention to further distinguish the claimed invention over the cited references.

As amended, the claims include still further limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references alone or in combination. For example, Wakeman does not disclose these example limitations of Claim 1:

- an aperture that allows inserting items into said enclosure through the aperture without moving said door mechanism into the opened position,
- a first support surface to maintain a device within the enclosure,
- a port hole defined in the housing, allowing passing at least a power cord therethrough for plugging into and powering at least one electrical device maintained by the first support surface in the safe when the door mechanism is in the closed position, wherein the port hole is located proximate the first support surface such that a power cord can straightforwardly reach, and be plugged into, an electrical device maintained by the first support surface,
- a second support surface located in relation to the aperture to receive items inserted into the housing through the aperture,
- wherein the housing includes a top wall, a bottom wall and side walls, such that the second support surface is connected to a side wall of the housing, and the first support surface and the second support surface are spatially offset.

Wakeman discloses a safe strictly for storing bills and coins. In Fig. 1, Wakeman's slot 17 is for bills, and opening 18 is a coin slot, not a port hole for a power cord, and once it receives a

coin a device therein prevents access. Even if the opening 18 is used for passing a power cord to a device on the floor 16, the power cord cannot easily reach a device on the floor 16. The power cord has to pass through box 20, and door 21, and inconveniently dangle in the safe. Further, the opening 18 is not proximate the floor 16 so that a power cord can easily reach an electrical device on the floor 16.

If the Patent Office considers bottom of box 20 in Wakeman as a surface for supporting a device to be charged via a cord passed through the opening 18, then unlike the claimed invention, there is no second surface in Wakeman's safe, offset from the bottom of box 20, to receive items inserted into without opening the safe door. As such, Wakeman does not disclose a second surface for receiving items inserted into the safe through an aperture, without opening the door, wherein the second surface is attached to a side wall of the safe. In Wakeman, the box 20 is attached to the top of the safe, not a side wall as claimed and defined in the specification of the present invention.

Israel is directed to a safe with interchangeable doors. Israel does not include a port hole for a power cord for powering an electronic devices stored therein with the safe doors closed. Israel does not provide first and second surfaces, and an aperture so that items can be dropped onto the second surface through the aperture. Gross provides a safe with jambs that make the safe tight, and fire proof. There is no shelving in Gross as in the claimed invention for receiving objects.

The new claims further clarify that the doors are attached to the sidewalls of the safe, and the second surface can be a shelf, mounted to one or more areas of the safe. Further, a divider is provided in relation to the second shelf for better storage management. The claimed limitations in the existing, amended and new claims are not taught or suggested by the references, alone or in combination.

Further, there is no motivation to combine the multitude of the references the Patent Office has utilized, to arrive at the present invention. The claimed invention provides a safe

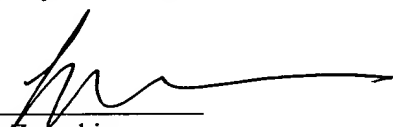
primarily designed for storing electronic devices, such as portable computers and cell phones, with the ability to pass a power cord therethrough to power such devices with the safe doors closed. There is also a slot for dropping objects into the safe. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Further, none of the cited references provides a motivation to be combined with other references to solve the problems that are alleviated by the present invention. Indeed, the problems solved by the present invention did not even exist at the time period the cited references were filed.

For at least the foregoing reasons, and other reasons, all the claims should be allowed. Re-examination, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

As the number of independent and dependent claims after this amendment do not exceed the maximum already paid for, no additional fees are required.

Respectfully Submitted,

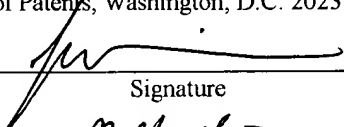
Dated: Jan. 17, 2003

  
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**Marked-up Version of the Amendments**

1. (Twice Amended) A security safe for storing one or more electrical devices, comprising:

a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure,

a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening,

an aperture that allows inserting items into said enclosure through the aperture without moving said door mechanism into the opened position,

wherein the housing further includes:

[an aperture for inserting items into said enclosure without moving said door mechanism into the opened position,]

a first support surface to maintain a device within the enclosure,

a port hole [providing access into said enclosure for] defined in the housing, allowing passing at least a power cord therethrough for plugging into and powering at least one electrical device maintained by the first support surface in the safe when the door mechanism is in the closed position, wherein the port hole is located proximate the first support surface such that a power cord can straightforwardly reach, and be plugged into, an electrical device maintained by the first support surface, [and]

[a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider] a second support surface located in relation to the aperture to receive items inserted into the housing through the aperture, and

wherein the housing includes a top wall, a bottom wall and side walls, such that the second support surface is connected to a side wall of the housing, and the first support surface and the second support surface are spatially offset.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please cancel claim 3.

4. (Once Amended) The safe of claim [1] 56, wherein the door mechanism comprises at least a door attached to the housing by one or more hinges such that the door is movable between said opened and closed positions.

Please cancel claim 5.

6. (Twice Amended) The safe of claim [1] 56, wherein the door mechanism comprises a first door and a second door, each door attached to the housing by one or more hinges whereby each door can swing between an opened position and a closed position in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the first and second doors cooperatively preclude access to said interior through said opening.

Please cancel claim 7.

Please cancel claim 8.

Please cancel claim 11.

Please cancel claim 12.

Please cancel claim 13.

Please cancel claim 14.

Please cancel claim 15.

17. (Once Amended) The safe of claim [1] 56, further comprising anchoring mechanism for securely fastening the safe to a structure.

18. (Once Amended) The safe of claim [1] 56, further including a plurality of orifices in said housing to allow attachment of said housing to a structure with fasteners, such that the fasteners cannot be removed when the door mechanism is in the closed position.

Please cancel claim 19.

20. (Twice Amended) A security safe for storing one or more electrical devices,

comprising:

a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure,

a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening,

a first support surface to maintain a device within the enclosure,

a port hole providing access into said enclosure for passing at least a power cord therethrough for powering at least one electrical device on the first support surface [in the safe] when the door mechanism is in the closed position, wherein the port hole is located proximate the first support surface such that a power cord can straightforwardly reach, and be plugged into, an electrical device maintained by the first support surface.

[a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture, and]

[wherein] the door mechanism further [includes] including at least an aperture for inserting items into said enclosure without moving said door mechanism into the opened position;

a second support surface located in relation to the aperture to receive items inserted into the housing through the aperture, and

wherein the housing includes a top wall, a bottom wall and side walls, such that the second support surface is connected to a side wall of the housing, and the first support surface and the second support surface are spatially offset.

Please cancel claim 21.

Please cancel claim 22.

23. (Twice Amended) The safe of claim [20] 72, wherein the door mechanism comprises a door attached to the housing by one or more hinges such that the door is movable between said opened and closed positions, wherein the aperture is defined in the door.

Please cancel claim 24.

25. (Twice Amended) The safe of claim [20] 72, wherein the door mechanism comprises a first door and a second door, the aperture being defined in one of the first and second doors, each door attached to the housing by one or more hinges whereby each door can swing between an opened position and a closed position in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the first and second doors cooperatively preclude access to said interior through said opening.

Please cancel claim 26.

Please cancel claim 27.

Please cancel claim 28.

Please cancel claim 29.

Please cancel claim 30.

Please cancel claim 31.

Please cancel claim 32.

Please cancel claim 33.

Please cancel claim 34.

36. (Once Amended) The safe of claim [20] 72, further comprising anchoring mechanism for securely fastening the safe to a structure.

37. (Once Amended) The safe of claim [20] 72, further including a plurality of orifices in said housing to allow attachment of said housing to a structure with fasteners, such that the fasteners cannot be removed when the door mechanism is in the closed position.

Please cancel claim 38.

39. (Twice Amended) A security safe for storing one or more electrical devices, comprising:  
a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an



interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure,

a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening,

the door mechanism comprising a first door and a second door, an aperture being defined in one of the first and second doors such that items can be inserted into said enclosure, each door attached to the housing by one or more hinges whereby each door can swing between an opened position and a closed position in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the first and second doors cooperatively preclude access to said interior through said opening,

a first support surface to maintain a device within the enclosure,

a port hole providing access into said enclosure for passing at least a power cord therethrough for powering at least one electrical device on the first support surface [in the safe] when the door mechanism is in the closed position, wherein the port hole is located proximate the first support surface such that a power cord can straightforwardly reach, and be plugged into, an electrical device maintained by the first support surface,

a second support surface located in relation to said aperture in of the doors, to receive items inserted into the housing through the aperture,

wherein the housing includes a top wall and side walls, and the second support surfaces is connected to a side wall of the housing, and the first support surface and the second support surface are spatially offset,

a [shelf] divider mounted substantially transverse to the second support surface, wherein the divider defines a storage area on the second support surface on each side of the divider [within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture],

locking mechanism for locking the first and second doors in the closed position,  
and

anchoring mechanism for securely fastening the safe to a structure.

Please cancel claim 40.

Please cancel claim 41.

Please cancel claim 47.

Please cancel claim 48.

Please cancel claim 49.

Please cancel claim 52.

53. (Once amended) The safe of claim 1, wherein said [aperture and] port hole [are] is on [the sides] a side wall of the safe.

54. (Once amended) The safe of claim [20] 1, wherein said aperture and port hole are on the [sides] side walls of the safe.

Please cancel claim 55.